

REALIA BAIRD, 1850 (GASTROPODA): REQUEST FOR
SUPPRESSION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS. Z.N.(S.) 1878

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In the course of a revision of the family Assimineidae (Order Mesogastropoda, Superfamily Rissoacea) for the *Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology*, we have encountered a problem with the generic name *Realia* that seems to require use of the Commission's plenary powers. Application of the law of priority could only result in confusion and in opposition by specialists, for it would mean reverting to a usage of the 1850s that was not even then unanimously adopted and that was entirely dropped within the next few years.

2. The name *Realia* appeared during the 1840s in several publications by Gray, each time as a *nomen nudum*. The earliest validation that we have been able to trace was in a catalogue by Baird (1850 [June 12]: 63–64), evidently from Gray's later-published manuscript. Baird's list included nine nominal species, as follows [bracketed annotations are ours, names being cited under original combinations, not necessarily the combinations Baird employed]:

1. *Cyclostoma cataroense* Pfeiffer, 1841 [Type of *Hydrocena* Pfeiffer, 1847, ex Parreyss MS, by subsequent designation of Herrmannsen, 1852; a genus now classified in the Order Archaeogastropoda.]
2. *Cyclostoma aurantiacum* Deshayes in Belanger, 1832 [*Omphalotropis*; unnecessarily renamed *C. belangeri* Pfeiffer, 1846, because of temporary secondary homonymy with *Annularia aurantiaca* Schumacher, 1817, the renaming not generally accepted; this species erroneously cited as type of *Omphalotropis* by authors.]
3. *Cyclostoma minutissimum* Sowerby, 1832. [*Assiminea*, fide Abbott, 1958.]
4. *Cyclostoma erosum* Quoy and Gaimard, 1832. [*Omphalotropis*.]
5. *Cyclostoma rubens* Quoy and Gaimard, 1832. [*Omphalotropis*; designated as type-species for *Realia* by Iredale, 1941.]
6. *Cyclostoma dubium* Pfeiffer, 1846. [*Assiminea*, fide Abbott, 1958.]
7. *Bulimus hieroglyphicus* Potiez and Michaud, 1838, ex Ferussac MS. [Type-species of *Omphalotropis* by subsequent designation of Nevill, 1878.]
8. *Hydrocena oparica* Pfeiffer, 1847. [*Nomen nudum*.]
9. *Realia egea* Gray, "P. Z. S., 1849". [*Nomen nudum*.]

3. As our annotations show, the first species in Baird's list is now allocated to a different superfamily (Neritacea) from the rest (Rissoacea), and the last two had not been formally described. The other six species would not be classed in the Assimineidae but by modern standards in two subfamilies, Assimineinae and Omphalotropidinae.

4. The name *Realia* was validly used a second time when Gray (1850a [June 30]: 167) described *Realia egea*, from New Zealand. However much one might wish that his description had preceded Baird's list, one does not find

support for such dating in the published collation of the *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* (Duncan, Waterhouse, and Peavot, 1937 : 80). No exact date has been established for Part 200, in which Gray's paper appeared, beyond "January to June, 1850". Under Article 21 (b)(i) of the International Code, the date must be construed as June 30; a late June date is plausible because Part 200 is the last of the section (Parts 194–200) attributed to the January-through-June period.

5. What now turns out to be the third of the three appearances of *Realia* in 1850 was the one that Iredale (1915 : 332; 1941 : 59) assumed to be first. This was in a systematic list by J. E. Gray in M. E. Gray's *Figures of Molluscan Animals*, vol. 4. Without documenting the source of his evidence, Iredale stated that this work was published in February or March, 1850. Gray's list included two species, *Cyclostoma rubens* and *C. erosum*, both of Quoy and Gaimard, 1832, and Iredale designated the former as type. A pre-June date for the volume is highly improbable. Mr. N. J. Rowlands, Librarian at the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), has supplied the information (letter of August 5, 1968) that according to the official records, Gray's work was received by the British Museum (Bloomsbury) on August 17, 1850; that it was listed by Bent's *Monthly and Literary Advertiser* on August 10, 1850; and that the cumulative list of the *Publishers Circular* cited it in August 1850.

6. To explain the subsequent history of *Realia*, we must digress to review a companion taxon, *Omphalotropis*. The name was proposed without selection of a type-species in a four-part article by Pfeiffer (1851a–d); it appeared in the third instalment of a catalogue, and six species were listed (Pfeiffer, 1851c [November]: 176). Eight more species were added in the next part (1851d [December]: 177). The latter group cannot be taken as part of the original list, but unfortunately one of these has conventionally been considered the type, *Cyclostoma aurantiacum* Deshayes in Belanger, 1832, designated by Kobelt, 1906. The first valid subsequent designation, so far as we can find, of a species in the original list is by Nevill (1878 : 319), who cited the first nominal species, "*O. hieroglyphica* Fer." as type. The earliest binomen for this is *Bulinus hieroglyphicus* Potiez and Michaud, 1838 (: 144), ex Férussac MS. The type locality was cited as unknown by Potiez and Michaud, but the species has since been recognized in Mauritius (Kobelt and Moellendorff, 1898).

7. In proposing *Omphalotropis*, Pfeiffer (1851c : 175–176) apparently concluded that *Realia* should be restricted to *R. egea*, and he was consistent in such usage in his later works (Pfeiffer, 1852a : 47–48; 1852b : 305), with one exception: Pfeiffer, 1853 (217). This work, called a "Catalogue", is an English version of his "*Monographia*" (1852b): and it seems to have been heavily edited by Gray. (Some British Museum sales-lists cite the authorship as "Pfeiffer and Gray", and the *British Museum Catalogue of Books and Manuscripts* (Woodward, 1903–1915) lists a manuscript that is Pfeiffer's translation of the "*Monographia*" into English, with additions by Gray; it was published in 1853 as the "Catalogue".) There was, in this work, a new departure: *Liarea* Pfeiffer, 1853, which was proposed for two species, *Realia egea* Gray, 1850, from New Zealand, and (with a query) *Hydrocena gutta* Shuttleworth, 1852, from the Canary Islands. *Realia* in the "Catalogue" comprised forms previously called

Omphalotropis, including *O. hieroglyphica*, a usage that must have been Gray's decision. Pfeiffer in his subsequent publications synonymized *Liarea* with *Realia*, used *Realia* for *R. egea*, and reinstated *Omphalotropis* (Pfeiffer, 1854a : 99; 1854b : 297, 303; 1855 : 304, 307; 1858 : 153; 1865 [*vide* Pease, 1869 : 133]), although he retained both within a single family. Gray, not yielding, continued to use *Liarea* for *Realia egea* and *Realia* for Pfeiffer's *Omphalotropis* (Gray, 1857 : 84). Pease (1869 : 136) favoured Pfeiffer's usage, and most of the authors up to the early years of this century—Nevill, Boettger, Kobelt, Moellendorff, and others followed his arrangement. Only one author, Mousson (1870), in describing a number of new species, adopted Gray's usage, and even he departed from it by recognizing *Omphalotropis* as a subgenus of *Realia*.

8. Whatever their view on generic synonymy, nineteenth-century authors had grouped the species of *Realia* and *Omphalotropis* into a single sub-family or family. Thiele (1909), however, showed that there was a marked difference between the radula of *R. egea* and that of *Omphalotropis*. Although he did not raise any question as to the type-species of *Realia*, he dismissed the genus from the Assimineidae by pointing out the similarity of the radula to that in Cyclophoridae. Later, in his "Handbuch", Thiele (1929 : 104) cited *Realia* as a genus in Cyclophoridae (subfamily Pupininae, Tribus Realieae), with *Liarea* "Gray" as a synonym; Wenz (1938 : 471) concurred.

With Iredale's designation in 1941 of an assimineid species as type of *Realia*, workers in New Zealand (the area to which this cyclophorid group is confined) have reinstated *Liarea* (Powell, 1954; 1957 : 91; 1961 : 83). They have even erected a family-group taxon, Liareidae, co-ordinate with Cyclophoridae in the superfamily Cyclophoracea. However, workers dealing with the assimineid group of *Omphalotropis* have not accepted *Realia* in this sense, which would require going back to a little used and long abandoned usage. The net result is that since 1941 the name *Realia* has vanished from the literature, not being recognized as available by systematists reviewing either the Cyclophoridae or the Assimineidae. Indeed, it has become a "forgotten name", although it may not precisely qualify as a *nomen oblitum*. Suppression of the name entirely would now appear to be the simplest way to dispose of it.

9. The generic name *Realia* has been the base for family-group taxa which necessitates a review of the pertinent names within the family where legally it belongs, for some one of these must serve as replacement if *Realia* is suppressed: ASSIMINEIDAE H. & A. Adams, 1856 (as "ASSIMINIIDAE", spelling corrected by Boettger, 1887).

REALIINAE Pfeiffer, 1858 (as "subfamily REALIEA"; spelling corrected by Kobelt, 1906; elevated to family rank as REALIIDAE [*nomen translatum*] by Kobelt and Moellendorff, 1898).

ADELOMORPHINAE Kobelt, 1906 (invalid because based on a type-genus that is homonymous).

GARRETTINAE Kobelt, 1906 (used only for a monotypic genus of limited distribution).

OMPHALOTROPIDINAE Thiele, 1927 (widely used).

10. Accordingly the International Commission is hereby asked
(1) to use its plenary powers:

- (a) to suppress the generic name *Realia* Baird, June 12, 1850, *ex* Gray MS, for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy;
- (b) to direct that precedence is to be given to OMPHALOTROPIDINAE Thiele, 1927, over GARRETTIINAE Kobelt, 1906, by any author who believes these names to refer to the same family-group taxon;
- (2) to place the generic name *Omphalotropis* Pfeiffer, 1851 (gender: masculine), type-species, by designation by Nevill, 1878, *Bulinus hieroglyphicus* Potiez & Michaud, 1838, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;
- (3) to place the specific name *hieroglyphicus* Potiez & Michard, 1838, as published in the binomen *Bulinus hieroglyphicus* (type-species of *Omphalotropis* Pfeiffer, 1851) on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;
- (4) to place the family-group name OMPHALOTROPIDINAE Thiele, 1927 (type-genus *Omphalotropis* Pfeiffer, 1851) (to be given precedence over GARRETTIINAE Kobelt, 1906, by any author who believes that the type genera of these names belong to the same family-group taxon) on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology
- (5) to place the generic name *Realia* Baird, 1850 (as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1)(a) above) on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology;
- (6) to place the family-group name REALIINAE Pfeiffer, 1858 (invalid because the name of the type-genus has been suppressed under the plenary powers) on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology.

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